

*Media - Gen*  
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1 September 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Leslie C. Dirks  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Further on Aviation Week Publication Intentions

REFERENCE :   
To: DCI From: DDS&T  
Subj: Meeting with Admiral Murphy and  
Aviation Week Reporters

1.  told me this noon that he had heard back from Clarence Robinson, the Aviation Week reporter pursuing the classified intelligence satellites.

2.  reports that Robinson called him this morning to tell him that AvWeek had decided not to publish any further articles containing specific information on any of the classified satellites. Robinson apparently said that they may change this decision depending upon other developments, but if or until the situation does change in some significant way; e.g., some other journal publishing a detailed article of their own, AvWeek will not proceed with any further stories in this area.

3. Dan told me that in his view another factor which may influence the AvWeek decision is the government itself releasing publicly currently classified information, particularly on  Robinson in our earlier meeting did in fact make quite a case of the concern about being scooped by some other publication or being scooped by the government itself by government formal information releases.

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X1 4. [ ] did not have any idea why AvWeek came to this decision so quickly. As I mentioned in my earlier memo, when Robinson and the others left [ ] office, they promised not to publish anything further within the next two weeks and in any case not without informing us ahead of time of their intention to do so. [ ] told them in very clear terms, reinforced by comments from myself, that we strongly would urge them to publish nothing on the specifics and details of any of our satellite systems, but none of the AvWeek personnel present gave any indication that they were buying that position. This is particularly puzzling since the editor, Hotz, is currently in London.

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Leslie C. Dirks

X1 cc: DDCI  
PR  
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